

Word formation in diachrony

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Workshop description:

Word Formation (henceforth: WF) represents by now a well-established domain in morphological studies. Many inquiries have investigated the mechanisms exploited by languages to create new words (see Štekauer & Lieber 2006; Müller et al. 2015), especially compounding and derivation, according to different approaches, as e.g. cognitive approaches, onomasiological approaches (see Lieber & Štekauer 2009), constructionist approaches (Construction Morphology; see Booij 2015), etc. Most of the above have focused on the semantic and formal properties of derived words and/or compounds from a synchronic perspective (see e.g. Bauer 2017; Schäfer 2018 on compounding).

Conversely, less attention has been given to the diachrony of WF, although a diachronic perspective is crucial for highlighting many aspects of WF, e.g. productivity of affixes or compound constituents, changes affecting the formal and/or semantic dimension of morphologically complex words, competition between two or more WF strategies, etc. These topics have so far been addressed by a relatively limited number of studies, which however have shown that diachrony is a promising perspective to improve our understanding of how WF mechanisms emerge, develop, compete with each other, and also of how they disappear from use (see e.g. Hilpert 2013: 110-154 and Hüning 2019 on diachronic changes in WF).

Against this background, we invite authors to submit original, unpublished research papers on (but not limited to) the following topics of interest:

- The productivity of WF mechanisms from a diachronic perspective;
- Changes in WF (e.g. semantic or formal changes, cases of grammaticalization, etc.);
- Competition between WF mechanisms from a diachronic perspective.

Contributions on any language(s), language familie(s) and area(s), in any theoretical perspective, are equally welcome.

Please send an abstract of no more than 500 words (excl. references) to maria.micheli@unimib.it and giorgio.arcodia@unimib.it.

References

- Bauer, L. (2017). *Compounds and compounding* (Vol. 155). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Booij, G. (2015). Word formation in Construction Grammar. In Müller, P. O., Ohnheiser, I., Olsen, S., & Rainer, F. (Eds.). *Word Formation. An International Handbook of the Languages of Europe*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, Volume 1, 188-202.
- Hilpert, M. (2013). *Constructional change in English: Developments in allomorphy, word formation, and syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hüning, M. (2019). Morphological Theory and Diachronic Change. In Audring, J., & Masini, F. (Eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Morphological Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lieber, R., & Štekauer, P. (Eds.). (2009). *The Oxford handbook of compounding*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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- Schäfer, M. (2018). *The semantic transparency of English compound nouns*. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Štekauer, P., & Lieber, R. (Eds.). (2006). *Handbook of word-formation*. Cham: Springer.